

**Health & Human Needs Committee**  
**July 15, 2014**  
**Youth Commission—Summary of the Dane County Youth Assessment**

**Youth Assessment**

- The DCYA is a collaboration led by the Youth Commission in partnership with Dane County Human Services, the United Way, Public Health Madison & Dane County, the City of Madison, and Dane County schools.
- Every three years, youth grades 7-12 complete an assessment that captures their opinions, concerns, behaviors, attitudes and experiences on a range of positive and risk behaviors.
- Planning is underway for the 2015 DCYA to be given January – March 2015

The last survey was administered in 2012. Data was used to inform community efforts including:

- Students participating in the By Youth For Youth grant project used the data to establish funding priorities and to allocate over \$30,000 to youth serving agencies.
- Public Health Madison & Dane County analyzed factors influencing student truancy and school engagement to help school districts make informed policy decisions.
- The Dane County Homeless Coalition launched the Make Room For Youth initiative resulting in public education about youth homelessness and the first ever youth homeless shelter in Dane County.
- United Way of Dane County continued its Achievement Connections initiative with partner school districts to improve high school achievement and graduation rates.
- The Madison Metropolitan School District launched a comprehensive strategy to address student mental health issues that impact learning.
- School districts throughout the county used the data in classroom discussions, to track youth trends and to address underage drinking at town hall meetings.
- The City of Madison set funding priorities and to started an Out-of-School Time service initiative.
- They Youth Commission hosted Fit2Film—a youth video contest highlighting DCYA data points
- Researchers at UW, U of Illinois and Boston College are using the data to analyze youth mental health issues & coping skills, bullying behaviors, school engagement and ways to improve extracurricular settings and encourage environmental sustainability—to name a few.

An Overview Report and the Middle and High School Reports summarizing findings are available on the DCDHS web site..

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